

REPORT


DATE: April 21, 2005

TO: Administration Committee
Regional Council

FROM: Mark Pisano
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Request to co-host an international conference on "Best Practices in Regional Planning" with the University of Southern California (USC).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve

SUMMARY:

SCAG staff has been working with the University of Southern California (USC) regarding an invitational international conference on Best Practices in Regional Planning that would convene leaders and planning researchers from Southern California with those from the major macropolitical regions of Pacific Asia, including Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Tokyo and Osaka. Sponsorship of two representatives from Seoul will be provided, which will be funded through local interests other than SCAG funds, to reciprocate for their hosting 2 members of SCAG last October. The proposed action is to participate in and co-host this event with USC.

BACKGROUND:

SCAG has been involved in several meetings with the Vice Provost of International Programs and the Deans of USC's School of Policy, Planning and Development and School of Education to discuss a conference for the Fall of 2005. This conference will provide a forum through which the Pacific Asian and Southern Californian macropolitical regions can exchange ideas and experiences on their efforts to build regional cooperation, mitigate growth impacts, and establish themselves as competitive nodes in the global economy.

Last October, The Seoul Development Institute (SDI) sponsored the travel and attendance of SCAG's President and Executive Director at a conference in Seoul on "Planning Issues and Policy Measures for Sustainable Growth of Two Pacific Rim Metropolitan Areas: Seoul and Los Angeles." A reciprocal conference for this Fall has been in discussion, for which SCAG would sponsor the travel and attendance of two representatives from SDI to Los Angeles. Combining this event with the Best Practices in Regional Planning conference is the preferred strategy given its similar timing and focus. USC will provide most of the logistical arrangements and support for this event.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds for sponsorship of Seoul representatives from SDI will be raised from local business interests in the region. Other sponsorship will be raised from local Asian business interests. Staff time will be spent on research and report preparation. Work element: Regional Forecasting and Policy Analysis Staff: 06-055.SCGS1.